(d) the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of the sub-group 'food and 'non-food' articles registered 4.6 per cent and 3.0 per cent increase respectively during the post-budget period this year i.e. between 20th July and 2nd November, 1991 (latest available) and the overall WPI increased by 3.5 per cent during this period.

(b) The main factors for rise in prices of essential commodities are: (i) the large and persistent fiscal deficits in the past which have, inevitably been associated with a monetisation of the budget deficits, and a large accumulated liquidity overhang, (ii) unavoidable increase in administered prices of petroleum products, fertilizers and sugar as part of fiscal adjustment, (iii) serious constrains on supply management through imports as a result of precarious balance of payments situation, and (iv) inflationary expectations built into the economy over the past year and (v) uneven progress of the monsoon until late august , 1991.

(c) The Government have taken a number of measures for macro-economic stabilisation and structural reforms which would have a strong deflationary impact on the price level after a short time lag. These measures include: (i) Planned reduction of fiscal deficit by 2 percentage points of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), from about 8.4 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 to 6.5 per cent in 1991-92; (ii) check on expansion of money supply to curb effective demand; and (iii) more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, streamlining of the Public Distribution System, providing incentives for higher production and savings and strict action against hoarders and profiteers.

(d) As a result of these measures the annual rate of inflation, on a point-to-point basis, which reached the peak of 16.69 per cent on 24 August, 1991 has shown some declining trend thereafter and stood at 13.42 per cent as on 2nd November, 1991.

Burning of Bank Branches in Punjab, J & K and Haryana

*33. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of branches of the nationalised banks in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana were recently set on fire by the extremists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total estimated loss in each of the bank branches destroyed by fire; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet such eventualities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) According to the reports received from public sector banks, 31 bank branches were set on fire by the extremists on the night of 20th/21st October, 1991 in Punjab. Extremists set on fire one branch on 26th October, 1991, two branches on the night of 10th/11th November, 1991 and one branch on the night of 12th/13th November, 1991 in Punjab. No such incidents have been reported in Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana during this period.

(b) The District-wise details of the estimated loss reported is given in the attached Statement.

(c) Government of India have reviewed the situation and the State Government have intensified the security arrangements for banks.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of banks' branches burnt in Punjab during October-November 1991 and estimated loss involved therein

Sl. No.	*Name of the Bank*	*Village/Branch*	*Loss of Cash*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
		Ludhiana District	
1.	UCO Bank	Romi	55000/-
2.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Chakkar	10000/-
3.	Punjab National Bank	Mallan	35000/-
4.	Co-op. Bank	Kamalpur	50000/-
5.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Lila	50000/-
6.	Co-op. Bank	Lodhiwal	25000/- + DBBL-2, Cartgs. -5
7.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Lodhiwal	-
8.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	College Sidwan	55000/-
9.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Nathowal	60000/-
10.	UCO Bank	Jhurka	55000/-
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	Theurke	3 lakhs
12.	Punjab National Bank	Dhandran	3 lakhs
13.	UCO Bank	Lalton	3 lakhs
14.	UCO Bank	Surjapur	85000/-
		Sangrur District	
1.	Malwa Gramin Bank	Karor	

Sl. No.	*Name of the Bank*	*Village/Branch*	*Loss of Cash*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
3.	State Bank of Patiala	Jalalde Wala	
4.	Co-Op. Bank	Kutba	
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Vehla	
6.	Central Co-op. Bank	Panj Graian	
7.	State Bank of India	Panj Graian	
8.	Co-op. Bank	Bari	
9.	State Bank of India	Cheema	
10.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Bhotna	
11.	Malwa Gramin Bank	Tholewal	
12.	Co-op. Bank	Tholewal	
13.	Punjab National Bank	Maur Nabha	
		Faridkot District	
1.	State Bank of India	Sukha Nand	
2.	Canara Bank	Mari Mustfa	
3.	Punjab National Bank	Veroke	
4.	Canara Bank	Rode	
		Jalandhar District	
1.	State Bank of India	Kalyan Pur	
		Amritsar District	
1.	Punjab National Bank	Chetan Pura	
2.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Chogawan	
3.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Khiala Kalan	